IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS SAN ANTONIO DIVISION

WENDY WISE, EMILY BEASLEY, RHONDA BRYANT, MARCUS DAVIS, WILL HESLIP, TERESA LOGAN, STEVEN MITCHELL, MICHAEL OZMUN, ERIC RONDON, DAVID SANDERS, DONALD SIMPSON and DYLLON WILKINSON **PLAINTIFFS**

VS.

No. 5:20-cv-868

NIXON ENGINEERING, LLC

DEFENDANT

ORIGINAL COMPLAINT

COME NOW Plaintiffs Wendy Wise, Emily Beasley, Rhonda Bryant, Marcus Davis, Will Heslip, Teresa Logan, Steven Mitchell, Michael Ozmun, Eric Rondon, David Sanders, Donald Simpson and Dyllon Wilkinson ("Plaintiffs"), by and through their attorneys Merideth Q. McEntire and Josh Sanford of the Sanford Law Firm, PLLC, and for their Original Complaint against Nixon Engineering, LLC ("Defendant"), they do hereby state and allege as follows:

I. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. Plaintiffs brings this action under the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 201, et seq. ("FLSA"), for declaratory judgment, monetary damages, liquidated damages, prejudgment interest, and costs, including reasonable attorneys' fees as a result of Defendant's failure to pay Plaintiffs a minimum wage and proper overtime compensation for all hours that Plaintiffs worked.

Page 1 of 21 Wendy Wise, et al. v. Nixon Engineering, LLC U.S.D.C. (W.D. Tex.) Case No. 5:20-cv-868 Original Complaint 2. The United States District Court for the Western District of Texas has

subject matter jurisdiction over this suit under the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 1331

because this suit raises federal questions under the FLSA.

3. Defendant conducts business within the State of Texas, operating and

managing a traffic control and highway maintenance business throughout Texas.

4. The acts complained of herein were committed and had their principal

effect against the named Plaintiffs herein within the San Antonio Division of the Western

District; therefore, venue is proper within this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391.

5. Plaintiffs were/are employed by Defendant, whose headquarters are in

Bastrop, in the Western District of Texas.

6. Each Plaintiff is a plaintiff/claimant in Heslip, et al., v. Nixon Engineering,

LLC, 5:____, in which case they are advancing claims for unpaid overtime due to

Defendant having misclassified them as salaried/overtime exempt. The claims in this

case do no overlap with the claims in that case.

II. THE PARTIES

7. Plaintiff Wendy Wise is an individual and resident of the State of Texas.

Plaintiff Emily Beasley is an individual and resident of the State of Texas.

9. Plaintiff Rhonda Bryant is an individual and resident of the State of Texas.

Plaintiff Marcus Davis is an individual and resident of the State of Texas.

11. Plaintiff Will Heslip is an individual and resident of the State of Texas.

12. Plaintiff Teresa Logan is an individual and resident of the State of Texas.

13. Plaintiff Steven Mitchell is an individual and resident of the State of Texas.

14. Plaintiff Michael Ozmun is an individual and resident of the State of Texas.

15. Plaintiff Eric Rondon is an individual and resident of the State of Texas.

16. Plaintiff David Sanders is an individual and resident of the State of Texas.

17. Plaintiff Donald Simpson is an individual and resident of the State of

Texas.

18. Plaintiff Dyllon Wilkinson is an individual and resident of the State of

Texas.

19. Defendant Nixon Engineering, LLC, is a domestic limited liability company,

with its principal place of business in Bastrop.

20. Defendant's registered address for service is Tina Tiner Nixon, 508 Pecan

Street, Bastrop, Texas 78602.

21. Defendant maintains a website regarding its business located on the web

at http://www.nixon-engineering.com/ww2/.

III. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

22. Plaintiffs repeat and re-allege all previous paragraphs of this Complaint as

though fully incorporated in this section.

23. At all times after three years preceding the filing of the Original Complaint,

Defendant had at least two (2) employees that handled, sold, or otherwise worked on

goods or materials that have been moved in or produced for commerce, such as

vehicles, including truck mounted attenuators and pilot vehicles, rumble strips, road

construction cones and road signs.

24. Defendant's annual gross volume of sales made or business done was not

less than \$500,000.00 (exclusive of exercise taxes at the retail level that are separately

stated) during each of the three calendar years preceding the filing of this complaint.

Page 3 of 21
Wendy Wise, et al. v. Nixon Engineering, LLC
U.S.D.C. (W.D. Tex.) Case No. 5:20-cv-868
Original Complaint

25. At all relevant times herein, Defendant was/is an "employer" of Plaintiffs

within the meaning of the FLSA.

26. At all times material herein, Plaintiffs have been entitled to the rights,

protections and benefits provided under the FLSA.

27. At all material times, Defendant failed to pay Plaintiffs minimum wage as

required by the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 206.

28. At all times material herein, Plaintiffs have been misclassified by

Defendant as salaried employees and as exempt from the overtime requirements of the

FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 207.

29. At all relevant times herein, Defendant directly hired Plaintiffs to work on

traffic control, paid them wages and benefits, controlled their work schedules, duties,

protocols, applications, assignments and employment conditions, and kept at least

some records regarding their employment.

30. Defendant failed to pay Plaintiffs for up to, and possibly exceeding, twenty

(20) hours of overtime per week.

31. Plaintiffs were not asked to provide input as to which employees should be

hired or fired.

32. Plaintiffs did not hire or fire any other employee.

33. At all relevant times herein, Defendant has deprived Plaintiffs of regular

wages and overtime compensation for all of the hours worked over forty (40) per week.

34. Defendant knew or showed reckless disregard for whether its actions

violated the FLSA.

A. Plaintiff Wendy Wise

Case 5:20-cv-00868-OLG Document 1 Filed 07/27/20 Page 5 of 21

35. Plaintiff Wise worked for Nixon Engineering, LLC, as Crew Chief from

2009 to April of 2019.

36. As a Crew Chief, Plaintiff Wise drove herself and others to jobsites and

worked with the road crew to set up and maintain traffic control equipment.

37. Plaintiff Wise was paid an hourly rate of \$8.00 per hour, with an additional

bonus of \$5.64 per hour for every hour worked up to forty (40) hours, and an overtime

rate of \$12.00 per hour for some hours worked over forty (40) per week, with some

overtime hours going uncompensated.

38. Plaintiff Wise was required to travel to distant locations and from jobsite to

jobsite and was regularly not compensated for drive time and various other off the clock

work in weeks in which Wise otherwise worked forty or more hours.

39. Plaintiff Wise was required to travel away from home and stay overnight.

She was required to travel, as either the driver or passenger in a company vehicle, to

various locations across the state of Texas, during normal workday hours as well as

during working hours on nonworking days and was regularly not compensated for this

work time. This unpaid travel time work occurred in weeks in which Wise worked forty

or more hours per week.

40. Plaintiff Wise was regularly required to pick up work trucks, rumble strips,

and other equipment from one jobsite and deliver it to another jobsite and was regularly

not compensated for this work time in weeks in which Wise otherwise worked forty or

more hours.

41. Plaintiff Wise regularly worked over forty hours per week, including off-the-

clock work.

Page 5 of 21 Wendy Wise, et al. v. Nixon Engineering, LLC U.S.D.C. (W.D. Tex.) Case No. 5:20-cv-868 Original Complaint Case 5:20-cv-00868-OLG Document 1 Filed 07/27/20 Page 6 of 21

B. Plaintiff Emily Beasley

42. Plaintiff Beasley worked for Nixon Engineering, LLC, as a traffic control

specialist, crew leader and TMA driver from January of 2019 to January of 2020.

43. As a Crew Chief, Plaintiff Beasley drove herself and others to jobsites and

worked with the road crew to set up and maintain traffic control equipment.

44. Plaintiff Beasley was paid an hourly rate of \$8.00 per hour, with an

additional bonus of \$5.64 per hour for some hours worked up to forty (40) hours, and an

overtime rate of \$12.00 per hour for some hours worked over forty (40) per week, with

some overtime hours going uncompensated.

45. Plaintiff Beasley was required to travel to distant locations and from jobsite

to jobsite and was regularly not compensated for drive time and various other off the

clock work in weeks in which Beasley otherwise worked forty or more hours.

46. Plaintiff Beasley was required to travel away from home and stay

overnight. She was required to travel, as either the driver or passenger in a company

vehicle, to various locations across the state of Texas, during normal workday hours as

well as during working hours on nonworking days and was regularly not compensated

for this work time. This unpaid travel time work occurred in weeks in which Beasley

worked forty or more hours per week.

47. Plaintiff Beasley was regularly required to pick up work trucks, rumble

strips, and other equipment from one jobsite and deliver it to another jobsite and was

regularly not compensated for this work time in weeks in which Beasley otherwise

worked forty or more hours.

48. Plaintiff Beasley was occasionally required to pay for fuel when driving on

behalf of the company, which constituted unlawful "kick-backs" under 29 C.F.R. §

531.35. These unlawful kick-backs totaled approximately \$200.00.

49. Plaintiff Beasley regularly worked over forty hours per week, including off-

the-clock work.

C. Plaintiff Rhonda Bryant

50. Plaintiff Bryant worked for Nixon Engineering, LLC, as a Flagger from April

of 2018 to October of 2019.

51. As a Flagger, Plaintiff Bryant would put out cones and hold signs to

communicate with motorists and help traffic flow through construction zones.

52. Plaintiff Bryant was paid an hourly rate of \$8.00 per hour, with an

additional bonus of \$5.64 per hour for some hours worked up to forty (40) hours, and an

overtime rate of \$12.00 per hour for some hours worked over forty (40) per week, with

some overtime hours going uncompensated.

53. Plaintiff Bryant was required to travel to distant locations and from jobsite

to jobsite and was regularly not compensated for drive time and various other off the

clock work in weeks in which Bryant otherwise worked forty or more hours.

54. Plaintiff Bryant was required to travel away from home and stay overnight.

She was required to travel, as either the driver or passenger in a company vehicle, to

various locations across the state of Texas, during normal workday hours as well as

during working hours on nonworking days and was regularly not compensated for this

Page 7 of 21 Wendy Wise, et al. v. Nixon Engineering, LLC U.S.D.C. (W.D. Tex.) Case No. 5:20-cv-868 Original Complaint work time. This unpaid travel time work occurred in weeks in which Bryant worked forty

or more hours per week.

55. Plaintiff Bryant was regularly required to pick up work trucks, rumble

strips, and other equipment from one jobsite and deliver it to another jobsite and was

regularly not compensated for this work time in weeks in which Bryant otherwise worked

forty or more hours.

56. Plaintiff Bryant regularly worked over forty hours per week, including off-

the-clock work.

D. Plaintiff Marcus Davis

57. Plaintiff Davis has worked for Nixon Engineering, LLC, as Crew Leader

since May of 2017.

58. As a Crew Leader, Plaintiff Davis drove himself and others to jobsites and

worked with the road crew to set up and maintain traffic control equipment.

59. While serving as Crew Leader, Plaintiff Davis is paid an hourly rate of

\$8.00 per hour, with an additional bonus of \$5.00 per hour for every hour worked up to

40 hours, and an overtime rate of \$12.00 per hour for some hours worked over forty per

week, with some overtime hours going uncompensated.

60. Plaintiff Davis is required to travel to distant locations and from jobsite to

jobsite and is regularly not compensated for drive time and various other off the clock

work in weeks in which Davis otherwise worked forty or more hours.

61. Plaintiff Davis is required to travel away from home and stay overnight. He

is required to travel, as either the driver or passenger in a company vehicle, to various

locations across the state of Texas, during normal workday hours as well as during

Page 8 of 21
Wendy Wise, et al. v. Nixon Engineering, LLC
U.S.D.C. (W.D. Tex.) Case No. 5:20-cv-868
Original Complaint

working hours on nonworking days, and was/is regularly not compensated for this work

time. This unpaid travel time work occurred in weeks in which Davis worked forty or

more hours per week.

62. Plaintiff Davis is required to pick up work trucks, rumble strips, and other

equipment from one jobsite and deliver it to another jobsite and was/is regularly not

compensated for this work time work in weeks in which Davis otherwise worked forty or

more hours.

Plaintiff Davis regularly worked over forty hours per week, including off-

the-clock work.

63.

E. Plaintiff Will Heslip

64. Plaintiff Heslip worked for Nixon Engineering, LLC, as a Crew Leader from

December of 2017 to January of 2019 and as a Foreman from May of 2019 to August of

2019.

65. As a Crew Leader, Plaintiff Heslip drove himself and others to the relevant

roadside jobsites and worked with the road crew to set up and maintain traffic control

equipment.

66. While serving as a Crew Leader, Plaintiff Heslip was paid an hourly rate of

\$8.00 per hour, an additional bonus of \$5.64 per hour for every hour worked up to 40

hours, and an overtime rate of \$12.00 per hour for all hours worked over forty per week.

67. As an hourly employee, Plaintiff Heslip was required to travel to distant

locations and from jobsite to jobsite and was regularly not compensated for the drive

time and various other off-the-clock work.

Page 9 of 21 Wendy Wise, et al. v. Nixon Engineering, LLC U.S.D.C. (W.D. Tex.) Case No. 5:20-cv-868 Original Complaint 68. As an hourly employee, Plaintiff Heslip was required to travel away from

home and stay overnight. He was required to travel, as either the driver or passenger in

a company vehicle, to various locations across the state of Texas, during normal

workday hours as well as during working hours on nonworking days, and was regularly

not compensated for this work time. This unpaid travel time work occurred in weeks in

which Heslip worked forty or more hours per week.

69. As an hourly employee, Plaintiff Heslip was required to pick up work

trucks, rumble strips and other equipment from one jobsite and deliver to another jobsite

and was regularly not compensated for this work time work in weeks in which Heslip

otherwise worked forty or more hours.

70. As Foreman, Plaintiff Heslip was paid a salary of \$700 per week and was

not paid for overtime. He was classified as exempt from overtime wages.

71. As a Foreman, Plaintiff Heslip's job duties changed very little. In addition

to setting up and maintaining traffic control equipment, he trained new employees on

the procedures involved with setting up and maintaining traffic control equipment. He

would report any issues to his supervisors. He had no authority to hire, fire, promote, or

alter the job duties or pay of other employees.

72. Plaintiff Heslip regularly worked over forty hours per week, including off-

the-clock work.

F. Plaintiff Teresa Logan

73. Plaintiff Logan worked for Nixon Engineering, LLC, as a Flagger from

February of 2018 to February of 2019.

Case 5:20-cv-00868-OLG Document 1 Filed 07/27/20 Page 11 of 21

74. As a Flagger, Plaintiff Logan would put out cones and hold signs to

communicate with motorists and help traffic flow through construction zones.

75. Plaintiff Logan was paid an hourly rate of \$8.00 per hour, an additional

bonus of \$5.64 per hour for every hour worked up to 40 hours, and an overtime rate of

\$12.00 per hour for some hours worked over forty per week, with some hours going

uncompensated.

76. Plaintiff Logan was required to travel to distant locations and from jobsite

to jobsite and was regularly not compensated for the drive time and various other off the

clock work in weeks in which Logan otherwise worked forty or more hours.

77. Plaintiff Logan was required to travel away from home and stay overnight.

She was required to travel, as the driver or passenger in a company vehicle, to various

locations across the state of Texas, during normal workday hours as well as during

working hours on nonworking days, and was regularly not compensated for this work

time. This unpaid travel time work occurred in weeks in which Logan worked forty or

more hours per week.

78. Plaintiff Logan was regularly required to pick up work trucks, rumble strips,

and other equipment from one jobsite and deliver it to another jobsite and was regularly

not compensated for this work time in weeks in which Logan otherwise worked forty or

more hours.

79. Plaintiff Logan regularly worked over 40 hours per week, including off-the-

clock work.

Case 5:20-cv-00868-OLG Document 1 Filed 07/27/20 Page 12 of 21

G. Plaintiff Steve Mitchell

80. Plaintiff Mitchell worked for Nixon Engineering, LLC, as a Flagger from

March of 2018 to January of 2019 and as Crew Leader from January of 2019 to June of

2019.

81. As a Flagger, Plaintiff Mitchell would put out cones and hold signs to

communicate with motorists and help traffic flow through construction zones.

82. As Crew Leader, Plaintiff Mitchell drove himself and others to the relevant

jobsites and work with the road crew to set up and maintain traffic control equipment.

83. While serving as Flagger and Crew leader, Plaintiff Mitchell was paid an

hourly rate of \$8.00 per hour, an additional bonus of \$5.64 per hour for every hour

worked up to 40 hours, and an overtime rate of \$12.00 per hour for some hours worked

over forty per week, with some hours going uncompensated.

84. Plaintiff Mitchell was required to travel to distant locations and from jobsite

to jobsite and was regularly not compensated for the drive time and various other off the

clock work in weeks in which Mitchell otherwise worked forty or more hours.

85. Plaintiff Mitchell was required to travel away from home and stay

overnight. He was required to travel, as the driver or passenger in a company vehicle, to

various locations across the state of Texas, during normal workday hours as well as

during working hours on nonworking days, and was regularly not compensated for this

work time. This unpaid travel time work occurred in weeks in which Mitchell worked

forty or more hours per week.

86. Plaintiff Mitchell was regularly required to pick up work trucks, rumble

strips, and other equipment from one jobsite and deliver it to another jobsite and was

regularly not compensated for this work time in weeks in which Mitchell otherwise

worked forty or more hours.

87. Plaintiff Mitchell was threatened with the loss of his job if he did not

perform the off-the-clock work.

88. Plaintiff Mitchell regularly worked over 40 hours per week, including off-

the-clock work.

H. Plaintiff Michael Ozmun

89. Plaintiff Ozmun worked for Nixon Engineering, LLC, as a flagger and crew

chief from January of 2017 to June of 2019.

90. As a Crew Chief, Plaintiff Ozmun drove himself and others to jobsites and

worked with the road crew to set up and maintain traffic control equipment.

91. Plaintiff Ozmun was paid an hourly rate of \$10.00 per hour, with an

additional bonus of \$3.64 per hour for some hours worked up to forty (40) hours, and an

overtime rate of \$15.00 per hour for some hours worked over forty (40) per week, with

some overtime hours going uncompensated.

92. Plaintiff Ozmun was required to travel to distant locations and from jobsite

to jobsite and was regularly not compensated for drive time and various other off the

clock work in weeks in which Ozmun otherwise worked forty or more hours.

93. Plaintiff Ozmun was required to travel away from home and stay

overnight. He was required to travel, as either the driver or passenger in a company

vehicle, to various locations across the state of Texas, during normal workday hours as

well as during working hours on nonworking days and was regularly not compensated

Page 13 of 21 Wendy Wise, et al. v. Nixon Engineering, LLC U.S.D.C. (W.D. Tex.) Case No. 5:20-cv-868 Original Complaint Case 5:20-cv-00868-OLG Document 1 Filed 07/27/20 Page 14 of 21

for this work time. This unpaid travel time work occurred in weeks in which Ozmun

worked forty or more hours per week.

94. Plaintiff Ozmun was regularly required to pick up work trucks, rumble

strips, and other equipment from one jobsite and deliver it to another jobsite and was

regularly not compensated for this work time in weeks in which Ozmun otherwise

worked forty or more hours.

95. Plaintiff Ozmun regularly worked over 40 hours per week, including off-

the-clock work.

I. Plaintiff Eric Rondon

96. Plaintiff Rondon worked for Nixon Engineering, LLC, as a flagger, crew

leader and TMA driver from June of 2018 to October of 2019.

97. As a Crew Chief, Plaintiff Rondon drove himself and others to jobsites and

worked with the road crew to set up and maintain traffic control equipment.

98. Plaintiff Rondon was paid an hourly rate of \$8.00 per hour, with an

additional bonus of \$5.64 per hour for some hours worked up to forty (40) hours, and an

overtime rate of \$12.00 per hour for some hours worked over forty (40) per week, with

some overtime hours going uncompensated.

99. Plaintiff Rondon was required to travel to distant locations and from jobsite

to jobsite and was regularly not compensated for drive time and various other off the

clock work in weeks in which Rondon otherwise worked forty or more hours.

100. Plaintiff Rondon was required to travel away from home and stay

overnight. He was required to travel, as either the driver or passenger in a company

vehicle, to various locations across the state of Texas, during normal workday hours as

Page 14 of 21 Wendy Wise, et al. v. Nixon Engineering, LLC U.S.D.C. (W.D. Tex.) Case No. 5:20-cv-868 Original Complaint Case 5:20-cv-00868-OLG Document 1 Filed 07/27/20 Page 15 of 21

well as during working hours on nonworking days and was regularly not compensated

for this work time. This unpaid travel time work occurred in weeks in which Rondon

worked forty or more hours per week.

101. Plaintiff Rondon was regularly required to pick up work trucks, rumble

strips, and other equipment from one jobsite and deliver it to another jobsite and was

regularly not compensated for this work time in weeks in which Rondon otherwise

worked forty or more hours.

102. Plaintiff Rondon regularly worked over 40 hours per week, including off-

the-clock work.

103. Plaintiff Rondon did not receive pay for the first two weeks he worked for

Defendant. Therefore, Defendant did not pay Rondon minimum wage for his two weeks

of employment.

J. Plaintiff David Sanders

104. Plaintiff Sanders has worked for Nixon Engineering, LLC, as a Dispatcher

since December of 2018. Plaintiff Sanders was employed by Defendant as an hourly

employee from December of 2018 until February of 2019, and as a salaried employee

from February of 2019 to present.

105. As a Dispatcher, Plaintiff Sanders is responsible for road crew

coordination as well as roadside manual labor. He answers and responds to phone calls

and emails to coordinate where other employees are supposed to work. When not on

the phone, Plaintiff Sanders is required to drive trucks and helps the road crew set up

and maintain traffic control equipment.

Page 15 of 21 Wendy Wise, et al. v. Nixon Engineering, LLC U.S.D.C. (W.D. Tex.) Case No. 5:20-cv-868 Original Complaint Case 5:20-cv-00868-OLG Document 1 Filed 07/27/20 Page 16 of 21

106. From December of 2018 until February of 2019 Plaintiff Sanders was paid

an hourly rate of \$8.00 per hour, an additional bonus of \$5.00 per hour for every hour

worked up to 40 hours, and an overtime rate of \$12.00 per hour for all hours worked

over 40 per week.

107. As an hourly employee, Plaintiff Sanders was required to travel to distant

locations and from jobsite to jobsite and was regularly not compensated for drive time

and various other off the clock work in weeks in which Sanders otherwise worked forty

or more hours.

108. As an hourly employee, Plaintiff Sanders was required to travel away from

home and stay overnight. He was required to travel, as either the driver or passenger in

a company vehicle, to various locations across the state of Texas, during normal

workday hours as well as during working hours on nonworking days and was regularly

not compensated for this work time. This unpaid travel time work occurred in weeks in

which Sanders worked forty or more hours per week.

109. From February of 2019 to present, Plaintiff Sanders has been paid a

salary of \$700 per week. Once paid a salary, Plaintiff Sanders was classified by

Defendant as exempt from overtime wages.

110. Plaintiff Sanders regularly worked over 40 hours per week, including off-

the-clock work.

111. Plaintiff Sanders is required to be on call as a Dispatcher 7 days per week,

24 hours per day.

Page 16 of 21 Wendy Wise, et al. v. Nixon Engineering, LLC U.S.D.C. (W.D. Tex.) Case No. 5:20-cv-868 Original Complaint Case 5:20-cv-00868-OLG Document 1 Filed 07/27/20 Page 17 of 21

K. Plaintiff Donald Simpson

112. Plaintiff Simpson has worked for Nixon Engineering, LLC, as a Flagger

and an Assistant Manager since October of 2017. Plaintiff Simpson was employed by

Defendant as an hourly employee from October of 2017 until March of 2020, and as a

salaried employee from March of 2020 to present.

113. As a Flagger, Plaintiff Simpson would put out cones and hold signs to

communicate with motorists and help traffic flow through construction zones.

114. Plaintiff Simpson was paid an hourly rate of \$8.00 per hour, an additional

bonus of \$5.64 per hour for every hour worked up to 40 hours, and an overtime rate of

\$12.00 per hour for some hours worked over forty per week, with some hours going

uncompensated.

115. Plaintiff Simpson was required to travel to distant locations and from

jobsite to jobsite and was regularly not compensated for the drive time and various other

off the clock work in weeks in which Simpson otherwise worked forty or more hours.

116. Plaintiff Simpson was required to travel away from home and stay

overnight. He was required to travel, as the driver or passenger in a company vehicle, to

various locations across the state of Texas, during normal workday hours as well as

during working hours on nonworking days, and was regularly not compensated for this

work time. This unpaid travel time work occurred in weeks in which Simpson worked

forty or more hours per week.

117. Plaintiff Simpson was regularly required to pick up work trucks, rumble

strips, and other equipment from one jobsite and deliver it to another jobsite and was

regularly not compensated for this work time in weeks in which Simpson otherwise

worked forty or more hours.

118. Plaintiff Simpson was occasionally required to pay for fuel when driving on

behalf of the company, which constituted unlawful "kick-backs" under 29 C.F.R. §

531.35. These unlawful kick-backs totaled approximately \$200.00.

119. Plaintiff Simpson regularly worked over 40 hours per week, including off-

the-clock work.

L. Plaintiff Dyllon Wilkinson

120. Plaintiff Wilkinson worked for Nixon Engineering, LLC, as a flagger and

crew chief from June of 2018 to December of 2019.

121. As a Crew Chief, Plaintiff Wilkinson drove himself and others to jobsites

and worked with the road crew to set up and maintain traffic control equipment.

122. Plaintiff Wilkinson was paid an hourly rate of \$8.00 per hour, with an

additional bonus of \$5.64 per hour for some hours worked up to forty (40) hours, and an

overtime rate of \$12.00 per hour for some hours worked over forty (40) per week, with

some overtime hours going uncompensated.

123. Plaintiff Wilkinson was required to travel to distant locations and from

jobsite to jobsite and was regularly not compensated for drive time and various other off

the clock work in weeks in which Wilkinson otherwise worked forty or more hours.

124. Plaintiff Wilkinson was required to travel away from home and stay

overnight. He was required to travel, as either the driver or passenger in a company

vehicle, to various locations across the state of Texas, during normal workday hours as

well as during working hours on nonworking days and was regularly not compensated

Page 18 of 21
Wendy Wise, et al. v. Nixon Engineering, LLC
U.S.D.C. (W.D. Tex.) Case No. 5:20-cv-868
Original Complaint

for this work time. This unpaid travel time work occurred in weeks in which Wilkinson

worked forty or more hours per week.

125. Plaintiff Wilkinson was regularly required to pick up work trucks, rumble

strips, and other equipment from one jobsite and deliver it to another jobsite and was

regularly not compensated for this work time in weeks in which Wilkinson otherwise

worked forty or more hours.

126. Plaintiff Wilkinson was occasionally required to pay for fuel when driving

on behalf of the company, which constituted unlawful "kick-backs" under 29 C.F.R. §

531.35. These unlawful kick-backs totaled approximately \$200.00.

127. Plaintiff Wilkinson regularly worked over 40 hours per week, including off-

the-clock work.

IV. CAUSE OF ACTION—Violation of the FLSA

128. Plaintiffs repeat and re-allege all previous paragraphs of this Complaint as

though fully incorporated in this section.

129. Plaintiffs asserts this claim for damages and declaratory relief pursuant to

the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 201, et seq.

130. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Defendant has been Plaintiffs'

"employer" within the meaning of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203.

131. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Defendant has been, and continues

to be, an enterprise engaged in commerce within the meaning of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §

203.

132. 29 U.S.C. §§ 206 and 207 require any enterprise engaged in commerce to

pay all employees a minimum wage for all hours worked up to forty (40) in one week

Page 19 of 21 Wendy Wise, et al. v. Nixon Engineering, LLC U.S.D.C. (W.D. Tex.) Case No. 5:20-cv-868 Original Complaint and to pay one and one-half times regular wages for all hours worked over forty (40)

hours in a week, unless an employee meets certain exemption requirements of 29

U.S.C. § 213 and all accompanying Department of Labor regulations.

133. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Defendant failed to pay Plaintiffs

lawful wage as required by the FLSA.

134. At all times relevant times to this Complaint, Defendant misclassified the

salaried Plaintiffs as exempt from the overtime requirements of the FLSA.

135. Despite the entitlement of Plaintiffs to overtime payments under the FLSA,

Defendant failed to pay Plaintiffs an overtime rate of one and one-half times his regular

rate of pay for all hours worked over forty (40) in each week.

136. Defendant's failure to pay Plaintiffs all overtime wages owed was willful.

137. Defendant failed to pay Plaintiffs a lawful minimum wage for all hours

worked.

138. By reason of the unlawful acts alleged herein, Defendant is liable to

Plaintiffs for monetary damages, liquidated damages, and costs, including reasonable

attorneys' fees, for all violations that occurred within the three (3) years prior to the filing

of this Complaint.

V. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, premises considered, Plaintiffs respectfully pray that Defendant

be summoned to appear and to answer herein and for declaratory relief and damages

as follows:

A. A declaratory judgment that Defendant's practices alleged herein violate

the FLSA and their relating regulations;

Page 20 of 21 Wendy Wise, et al. v. Nixon Engineering, LLC U.S.D.C. (W.D. Tex.) Case No. 5:20-cv-868 Original Complaint

- B. Judgment for damages for all unpaid minimum wage and overtime compensation under the FLSA and their relating regulations;
- C. Judgment for liquidated damages pursuant to the FLSA and their relating regulations;
- D. An order directing Defendant to pay Plaintiffs a reasonable attorney's fee and all costs connected with this action; and
- E. Such other and further relief as this Court may deem necessary, just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

WENDY WISE, EMILY BEASLEY, RHONDA BRYANT, MARCUS DAVIS, WILL HESLIP, TERESA LOGAN, STEVEN MITCHELL, MICHAEL OZMUN, ERIC RONDON, DAVID SANDERS, DONALD SIMPSON and DYLLON WILKINSON, PLAINTIFFS

SANFORD LAW FIRM, PLLC One Financial Center 650 South Shackleford Road, Suite 411 Little Rock, Arkansas 72211 Telephone: (501) 221-0088 Facsimile: (888) 787-2040

/s/ Josh Sanford
Josh Sanford
Tex. Bar No. 24077858
josh@sanfordlawfirm.com

/s/ Merideth Q. McEntire
Merideth Q. McEntire
Tex. Bar No. 24105123
merideth@sanfordlawfirm.com